Department of State

POL 14 VIETS

TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA 15

INFO MM 01, RSR 01, CIAE 00, CIA 04, DODE 00, GPM 03, H 02, INR 07, L 03,
NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, SAL 01,
SAH 03, AID 28, IO 13, NSA 02, /DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Joan Ingalls DATE 1/21/82

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

R 231245Z JAN 68
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4907
INFO CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 1601

UNCLAS SAIGON 16733

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS ON PROVINCIAL AND OTHER ELECTIONS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF VIETNAM PRESS, ENGLISH EDITION, ACCOUNT OF MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN VAN LOC AND DELEGATION TO THE LAND REFORM CONVENTION JANUARY 21.

QTE DURING THE ONE HOUR MEETING THE DEPUTIES AND COUNCILLORS TALKED ABOUT THE ELECTIONS OF THE COUNCILS TO BE HELD NEXT

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MAY, THE ATTITUDE OF A NUMBER OF PROVINCE CHIEFS, THE ALLOCATION OF AUTONOMOUS BUDGETS FOR THE COUNCILS AND THE ELECTIONS OF THE SAIGON PREFECT AND CITY MAYORS.

CONCERNING THE TYRANNICAL ATTITUDE OF A NUMBER OF

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PROVINCE CHIEFS REPORTED BY L.H. DEPUTIES TRUONG GIA KY SANH, TRAN SANH BUU AND DR. NGUYEN DUY TAI, SAIGON CITY CHAIRMAN. PRIME MINISTER LOC SAID THAT NOW THAT THE COUNTRY HAS THE SENATE AND THE LOWER HOUSE ANY CASE OF PROVINCE CHIEFS TURNING DESPOTIC OFFICIALS COULD BE BROUGHT FORTH BY POPULARLY-ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FOR DISCUSSION.

HE ADDED THAT MEMBERS OF THE SAIGON CITY PROVINCIAL AND CITY COUNCILS CAN ALSO DENOUNCE CORRUPT PRACTICES AND WHEN FACING ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES THEY CAN SEND RESOLUTIONS TO RELATED MINISTRIES FOR CONSIDERATION.

DEPUTY TRAN SANH BUU REQUESTED PRIME MINISTER LOC TO AMEND THE DECREE LAWS ON THE ELECTIONS OF PROVINCIAL AND CITY COUNCILS OR ALLOW THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO DRAFT A NEW

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DECREE LAW.

PRIME MINISTER LOC SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CHANGE ANYTHING IT DEEMS TRULY UNJUST AND WHENEVER THE CHANGE LIES WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE EXECUTIVE POWER. ACCORDING TO HIM, THE GOVERNMENT'S GREATEST CONCERN IS TO SEE TO IT THAT THE EXECUTIVE DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH THE LEGISLATIVE.

WHEN DEPUTY TRUONG GIA KY SANH SAID THAT THE POWERS OF THE PROVINCE COUNCILLORS SHOULD BE ENLARGED SINCE THE PROVINCE CHIEFS ARE GOING TO BE INVESTED WITH LARGER POWERS, PRIME MINISTER LOC POINTED OUT THAT PROVINCE CHIEFS WILL HAVE MORE POWER VIS-A-VIS THE PROVINCIAL SERVICE CHIEFS NOT VIS-A-VIS THE POPULARLY ELECTED COUNCILS.

HE ADDED THAT THE INVESTMENT OF LARGER POWERS TO THE PROVINCE CHIEFS IS IN KEEPING WITH THE NEW POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT ACCORDING TO WHICH THE PROVINCE CHIEF IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WHOLE NATIONAL POLICY WITHIN HIS PROVINCE.

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THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ELECTIONS OF SAIGON PREFECT AND CITY MAYORS DURING ITS PRESENT TENURE OF OFFICE.

CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF AUTONOMOUS BUDGET TO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, PRIME MINISTER LOC REMARKED THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH AN AUTONOMOUS BUDGET FOR THE PROVINCE FIRST. UNQTE
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ORIGIN/ACTION

EA-8

RM/R	REP	AF
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ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR 5
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	S/P 1	
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR 5
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WH-K 3

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

Pol 14 VIETS

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A-795 NO. | UNCLASSIFIED | 1371 HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO : BANGKOK, CINCPAC for POLAD; DANANG; PARIS for VIETNAM MISSION; VIENTIANE

Action assigned VN

Action Taken VOTD

FROM : Amembassy SAIGON

DATE: Aug. 12, 1968

Date of Action

Action Officer

Name of Officer

SUBJECT : Lower House By-Elections

REF :

1. Introduction. July 13 President Thieu promulgated the Lower House By-Election Law (Law No. 6/68) which earlier had been passed by both houses. The elections will be held September 8. These by-elections are being held to replace two deceased deputies: Bui Quang San, elected from Quang Nam, who was assassinated in Gia Dinh the night of December 14, 1967; and Tran Van Ngan, elected from the Second Constituency of Saigon (Saigon Districts 4, 6, 7, 8, 9), who died from cancer January 12, 1968.

2. General. The by-election law states that the procedures set forth in the law governing the Lower House elections last fall (Law No. 4/67, August 7, 1967) will apply, except for a few minor changes set forth in the [illegible] election law. Most of the text of the law deals with the schedule of the various election activities. This schedule is set forth in the following paragraphs.

3. Voters. August 1: Voters lists will be posted publicly for the first time. August 2-7: Voters have the right to file complaints during this period if their names are missing from the list of voters or are incorrect.

August 8-12: Voters lists and complaints must be transmitted to the Local Election Council.

August 13-17: The Local Election Council determines the voters list and returns it to the responsible local officials.

August 26: The voters list will be posted for the second and final time by this date at the latest.

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Drafted by: POL:RSThompson:js 8/2/68

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL:John A. Calhoun

Clearances:

POL:TJCheavner/GLStone

Aug 13 11 11 25

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